

## UNO Talent Show

Students showcase themselves with a talent show sponsored by the UNO Multicultural Affairs Office.  
**ENTERTAINMENT**  
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# gateway

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA SINCE 1913

Softball team splits doubleheader

UNO faces Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Mo.

**SPORTS**  
[PAGE 4]

VOLUME 08 | ISSUE 52

TUESDAY | APRIL 28, 2009

## Robinson accepts post at Wichita State University

**TAYLOR MULLER**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

One of UNO's top administrators will spend his summer preparing for a new job at a new university.

Wade Robinson, associate vice chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, was selected by Wichita State University to be vice president for the Division of Campus Life and University Relations, according to an announcement last week.

Robinson has served as a UNO administrator since 1994 when he joined on as the director of academic records and registration. Since then he served in several interim positions, taking the associate vice chancellor position in 2003.

His Nebraska connections go further than recent employment, though.

Robinson received his bachelor's degree in fitness and leisure management from Kearney State College, his master's in education administration at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and his doctorate in curriculum and instruction from University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

As an associate vice chancellor, Robinson was responsible for the administration and development of student affairs and functions of the campus.

Wichita State President Don Beggs congratulated Robinson on being selected from three other finalists out of a pool of 30 applicants.

"He brings a strong set of skills and experiences that are related to an urban-serving institution," Beggs said.

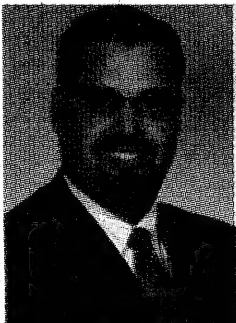
Robinson will serve Wichita State, in Wichita, Kan., by overseeing student life, enrollment services, the Rhatigan Student Center and university relations, according to a press release. He will also be the university's liaison with the alumni association.

"My vision for this position is to create an environment where student life complements the academic goals of students and allows them to achieve their maximum potential," Robinson said.

UNO's Student Senate passed a letter of statement on Thursday thanking Robinson for his contributions to the university.

"Robinson has played an intricate role in actively seeking out student input for the utilization of student fees, while making sure that his careful and articulate distribution of student fees adds to the quality of our campus and the overall campus experience," according to the letter.

Robinson will start Aug. 3 at Wichita State, replacing current vice president Ron Kopita who is retiring at the end of July.



WADE ROBINSON

## Budget purgatory: university waiting on state appropriation, AAUP award appeal

**TAYLOR MULLER**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

As University of Nebraska officials continue to keep a close watch on the Nebraska Legislature's budget actions, the Appropriations Committee is expected to complete its final state budget proposal Wednesday.

While it's only one step in a two-month process for the NU system regarding each campus' budget, it is one step closer to difficult decisions for each university's administration regarding possible layoffs and program cuts to shore up budget deficits.

Looking forward, Wednesday's budget proposal will be debated by the full legislature and approved by May 18.

Contributing to the budget shortfalls, the Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board voted on Thursday to decrease revenue projections for the 2009-10 fiscal year by \$71 million and \$66 million for the 2010-11 fiscal year.

"This revised forecast is a clear and strong indication that the national economic slowdown will impact Nebraska during the next two years," Gov. Dave Heineman said. "A slowing economy will be a very serious financial challenge for our state, and requires a targeted and responsible approach."

With tax revenues decreasing, the NU system was still able to tentatively receive nearly \$2.5 million more than expected over the next two years from the

Appropriations Committee. The committee tentatively allocated the university a 2-percent increase for next fiscal year, a half-percent raise from what had been discussed in March.

NU President James B. Milliken said while the increase is most likely the result of lobbying efforts by university supporters, there is still "a lot of work left to be done in the legislature."

As this work is completed, UNO officials are left holding their breath, waiting for word of a final campus budget allocation on June 19.

"Everything is really being done at the 30,000-foot level. We don't know specifics," said Terry Hynes, UNO's senior vice chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs. "We're trying to be careful of not jumping to any conclusions at this point. We're not soft-pedaling, but also not trying to alarm people."

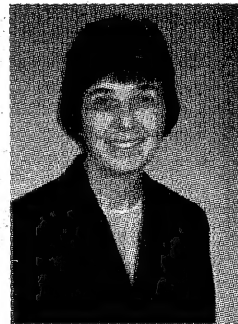
Both Hynes and Bill Conley, vice chancellor for Business and Finance, referred to June 19 as D-Day, the day UNO would know how much money it would have and, more importantly, how much of a shortfall it will have.

"We're looking at a deficit of more than \$20 million before any decisions are made on tuition and budgets," Conley said.

That figure does not include the potential millions UNO would have to



BILL CONLEY



TERRY HYNES

make up if a faculty union decision appeal doesn't go the university's way.

The appeal - filed after an independent arbitrator awarded the faculty its final offer of a 3.8 percent salary increase for the next two years in addition to life insurance benefits - now awaits a decision by the Nebraska Commission of Industrial Relations. A hearing with the commission is scheduled for May 27, but there is no deadline set for a decision.

UNO's final offer to the UNO chapter of the American Association of University Professors was a 2.9 percent salary increase in 2009-10, a 2.5 percent increase in 2010-11 and no increase in life insurance coverage.

With the university playing the waiting game, both for the state's budget and the union contract decision, UNO departments and units are being asked

SEE **BUDGET:** PAGE 8

## Senators fail to appoint VP replacement, approve final legislation of spring session

**MARK REAGAN**  
STAFF WRITER



MICHAEL CRABB

The Student Senate reached an impasse in selecting a vice president before the summer session.

Little debate took place regarding President Neal Bonacci's appointment of Sen. Michael Crabb, and the appointment ultimately failed to be confirmed.

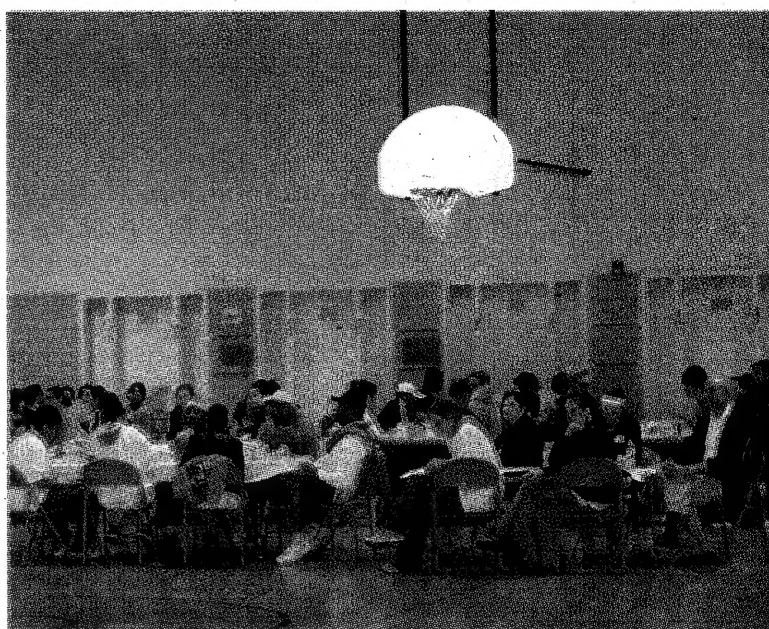
Bonacci said he picked Crabb because he went "above and beyond," did a great job and has worked on a lot of different projects.

In a secret ballot vote, senators voted 13-9 to approve Crabb, but a two-thirds majority was needed to confirm the appointment. The senate will not be able to make an appointment until after the organization's summer session because of rules adopted earlier this semester.

In other business, the Student Senate passed a resolution reaffirming student rights, and the organization finished revising the Student Government's constitution, bylaws and election rules.

Several appointments to various positions were confirmed. Senators also passed five letters of statement and three student organization constitutions.

SEE **SENATE:** PAGE 5



CAITRIN SHIRAZI/THE GATEWAY

## GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY

UNO students joined students from several metro high schools to help clean up Western Hills Magnet School, Beveridge Middle School, Omaha Hearing School, Fontenelle Park, Elmwood Park and Benson Park as part of the Global Youth Service Day event on Saturday. The event is celebrated in more than 100 countries and in every region of the world during a weekend in April.

## Wondering about the athletic director hire?

Check out the Gateway's Web site, [www.unogateway.com](http://www.unogateway.com), for news as it breaks this week about the final hire for the athletic director post.



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## Student fees increased to support HPER project, cultural enrichment fee

SCOTT STEWART  
NEWS EDITOR

LINCOLN, Neb. — The University of Nebraska Board of Regents raised student-fee rates across the university system Friday, approving a package of University Program and Facilities Fees increases.

At UNO, students will pay an additional \$45.55 plus 50 cents per credit hour, bringing the total UPFF Fund B assessment per student to \$116.15 plus \$15.60 per credit hour.

The fees include a \$45 increase to cover the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building addition and renovation bond issue. The remaining increases — a flat 55 cents plus 50 cents per credit hour — support increases for salaries, benefits and operating increases for the various Fund B support entities.

Entities receiving Fund B support include Campus Recreation, Student Organizations and Leadership Programs, Milo Bail Student Center and its associated bond issue, athletics, musical groups, Student Health Services, facilities and the intercampus shuttle.

The proposal, passed unanimously by the regents, represents a 20 percent increase from last year. Without the HPER Building component, the increase would only be 2.6 percent.

A new miscellaneous fee was also approved by Chancellor John Christensen and NU President James B. Milliken: the Cultural Enrichment Fee, which will charge \$5 per student to support programs like theater and music from the College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media.

Additionally, College of Business Administration students will see a new fee, a \$5 per semester Professional Fee to support an accounting and statistics lab.

"Both of these fees meet the definition for what a miscellaneous fee is under regents' policy," UNO student regent Neal Bonacci said.

However, a proposed miscellaneous fee to support the Writing Center, Speech Center and Math/Science Learning Center failed to win university support from Milliken because it did not meet the requirements to be a miscellaneous fee.

Several other miscellaneous fees were also increased for the 2009-10 academic year: the Diploma Replacement Fee increased \$2.50 to \$32.50; the Enrollment Services Fee increased \$4.50 to \$47 per semester; the Graduation Application Fee increased \$2.50 to \$37.50; the New Student Fee increased \$50 to \$125; the Student Technology Fee increased \$1 per credit hour to \$9 per credit hour; and the MavCard Fee increased 25 cents to \$6.25 per semester.

Parking rates were also reported to the regents, with annual day permit increasing \$12 to \$118 for the 2009-10 academic year. The evening permit will increase \$6 to \$59, and the garage access surcharge will increase \$10 to \$70 for the 2009-10 academic year.

Several classes will also see new or increased laboratory fees, with classes in chemistry and physical education seeing the most increases. Students enrolled in music performance classes will also see a \$50 hike in the Professional Applied Music Fee.

At UNL, students will see an \$18.61 increase — or 4.6 percent — bringing their total flat fee to \$421.41 per semester. The increase will primarily go to support the Gaughan Multicultural Center.

At UNMC, students will see a \$5 increase — or 3.4 percent — bringing their total flat fee to \$152.25 per semester. The increase will support Campus Recreation, which has not received additional funds since 2000.

At UNK, students will see a \$3 increase — or 1 percent — bringing their total flat fee to \$282 per semester. The increase will support the women's soccer team, helping the university improve its Title IX compliance.

"I don't think we're ever going to see a decrease in student fees," Bonacci said.

## New interdisciplinary degree to be offered in information technology

SCOTT STEWART  
NEWS EDITOR

LINCOLN, Neb. — As the Peter Kiewit Institute seeks to take itself to the "next level of accomplishment and success," a new degree program in the College of Information Science and Technology will help the institute reach its goals.

The program, a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology Innovation, is an interdisciplinary program allowing students to unite the study of information technology with fields ranging from mathematics to fine arts.

The proposal, which was approved by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents on Friday, will also help strengthen collaboration across disciplines and help establish stronger links between the Peter Kiewit Institute and other academic units in the university. This was one of the recommendations for the institute made by The Washington Advisory Group last year.

The IT innovation curriculum will include 33 credit hours of a "practice specialty" to be selected with assistance from the program faculty. Such specialties could include but are not limited to management, marketing, finance, accounting, economics, mathematics, psychology, aviation, communication, fine arts, technical writing,

graphic design, engineering or geography.

The remainder of the curriculum is university-required core classes and 42 credit hours of information systems and qualitative analysis, computer science and information assurance course.

The College of Information Science and Technology expects to enroll 15 to 20 students in the program during its first semester and 20 to 30 students each additional year, citing enrollment increases generated by a more limited program at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

The projected financial impact of the new program is \$72,750, which the college will fund by reallocating existing funds and through expected tuition revenue generated by the program. The projected expenses include hiring a part-time faculty position to support the program, but otherwise make use of existing faculty.

"A bachelor's degree in IT innovation at UNO would be unique among degree programs in the nation and would not duplicate any currently available program in the university system," according to the regents' agenda. "This multidisciplinary program will better serve UNO students and will enhance the university's reputation and ability to recruit high-caliber students from across the state, the nation and the world."

## Regents approve \$350,000 to renovate Milo Bail Student Center food service

SCOTT STEWART  
NEWS EDITOR

LINCOLN, Neb. — The university approved \$350,000 in renovations to the Milo Bail Student Center food service area and food court at the University of Nebraska Board of Regents meeting on Friday.

The money will go to design, construct and replace signs to renovate and update the food service area in the Milo Bail Student Center food court to meet customer preferences for new and enhanced menu items, according to the regents' agenda.

The funding comes from the Sixth Series Surplus Fund, which is supported by the operating of the student center, Scott

Village, Maverick Village and parking lots. The fund supports maintenance and renovation projects for those facilities.

"We will consider additional projects in the future, but there is no plan about what the projects would be in the next few years," said Bill Conley, vice chancellor of Business and Finance. "It is likely that we will have additional projects if not next year then the year after."

Two ideas being considered for the student center are renovating the student lobby area on the second floor and making improvements to the first floor. This would include making improvements to a ramp required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, Conley said.

## Survey: UNO freshmen are working fewer hours; seniors working more

SCOTT STEWART  
NEWS EDITOR

LINCOLN, Neb. — UNO freshmen are working fewer hours than last year, while more seniors are working more, according to survey results announced at the University of Nebraska Board of Regents meeting on Friday.

Only 33 percent of UNO freshmen reported working 20 or more hours per week, compared with 41 percent last year, according to results from the National Survey of Student Engagement. For seniors,

58 percent reported working at least 20 hours per week, up from 55 percent last year.

The survey also found that by the time they are seniors, 50 percent of UNO students have participated in community service or volunteer work, with 9 percent regularly participating in such service.

Almost half of the seniors polled — 48 percent — also said by their senior year, they had participated in some form of real-life learning through a practicum, internship, field experience, co-op or clinical assignment.

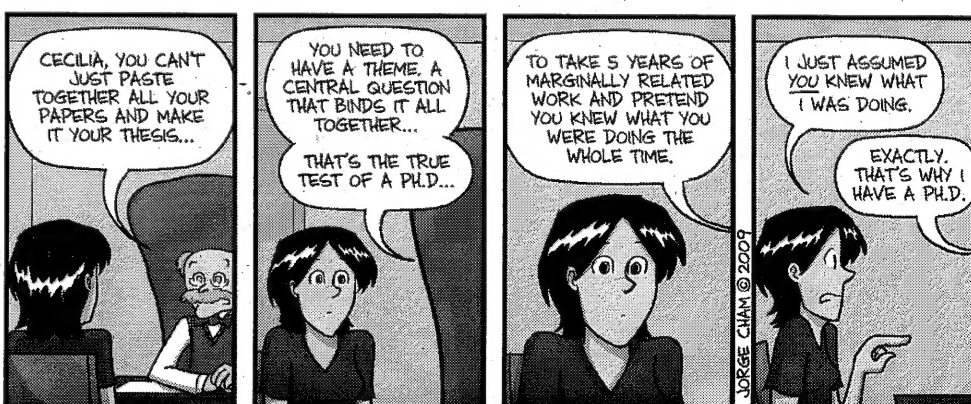
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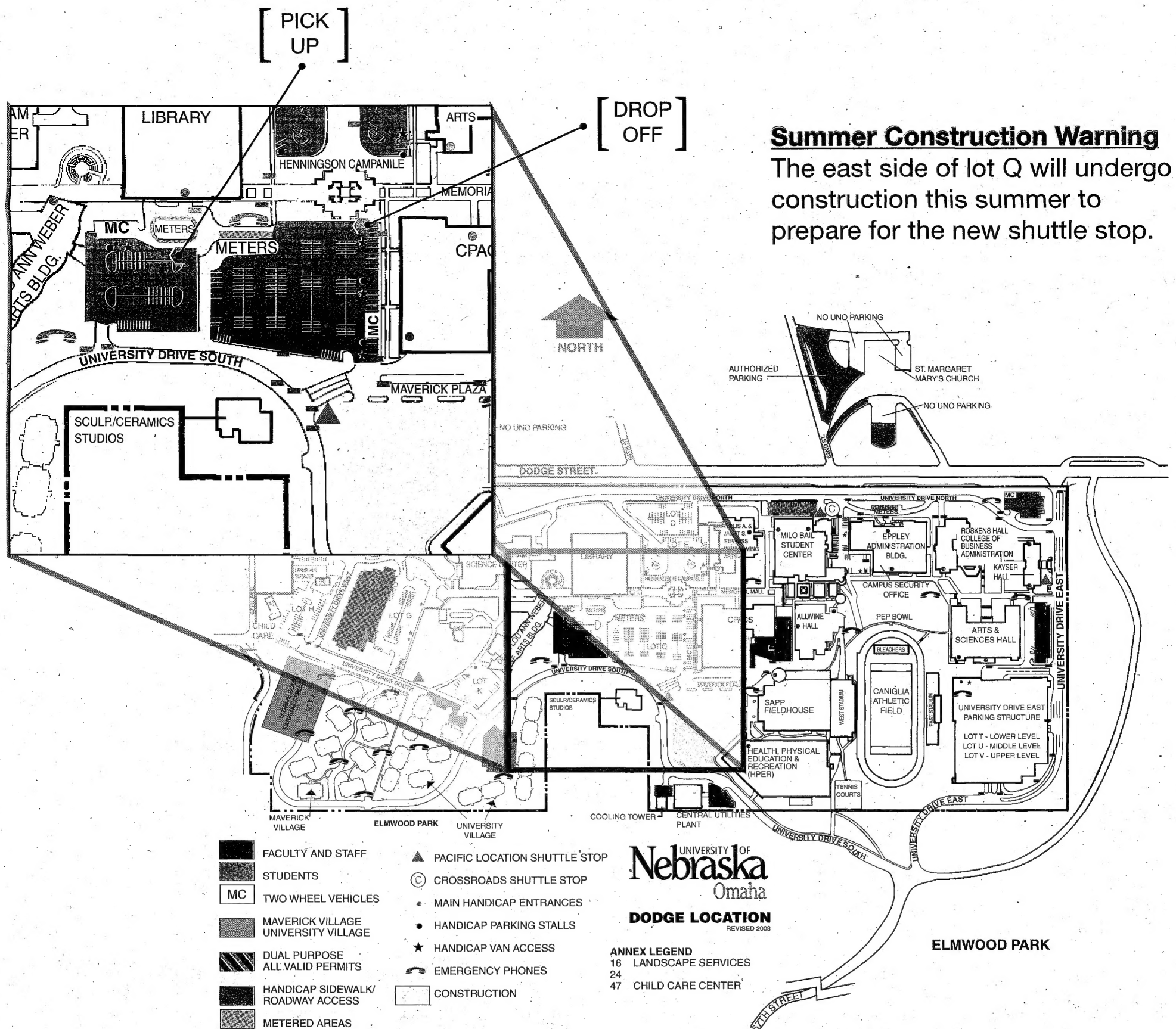
# New Pacific Shuttle

## Bus Route Next Fall

Starting in the Fall 2009 semester, the Pacific shuttle route will **ONLY** drop off at the northeast corner of Lot Q (near the bell tower) and pick up in the north part of lot M (lower level south of the library).

From Nov. 1, 2009 to March 12, 2010 there will be an inter-campus shuttle that will circle the Dodge location and drop off/pick up students at all the normal shuttle stops.

*\*The Crossroads shuttle route will remain the same.*



**Contact Campus Security at 554.2648 for more information**



# Softball wins three-of-four in Missouri

MICHELLE BISHOP  
SPORTS & PHOTO EDITOR

The No. 21-ranked UNO softball team split a doubleheader with Central Missouri Saturday in Warrensburg, Mo. The Jennies, who clinched the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association regular season conference title Friday, edged out the Mavs 2-1 in game one and dropped game two 10-4.

In game one, UNO was held to just two hits as Central Missouri senior pitcher Megan Leonard, the Division II National Pitcher of the Week, picked up 15 strikeouts. Entering the weekend, Leonard led the nation with a 0.41 ERA and was second in strikeouts per seven innings at 12.48.

The Jennies scored both of their runs in the third inning. Junior Jessie Shelman doubled to left center and later scored on a

throwing error. Senior Tracey Anderson, who reached on a walk, scored when sophomore Kelli Kurka hit into a fielder's choice.

The Mavs scored their only run in the top of the fifth when sophomore Ashley Lynch walked and advanced to score on a double by junior Treightin Yates.

Junior Melissa Negrete took the loss for UNO (15-6). Negrete pitched six innings and gave up one earned run on five hits,

while striking out four and walking two.

UNO's bats woke up in game two. The Mavs collected 13 hits and took advantage of six Central Missouri errors to win 10-4.

The Jennies jumped out to a 3-0 lead, knocking starter sophomore Lindsey Slocum out after just two and two-thirds innings.

The Mavs responded with two runs in the top of the third and continued with four runs in both the fourth and fifth innings.

Junior Jenna Dell led the offense in game two. Dell hit a grand slam in the fourth, finishing the game with five RBIs. To set up Dell's bases clearing shot, Lynch walked and freshman Molly Feichtinger and Slocum both singled. Dell is now tied with freshman Katelyn Hinton for the team home run lead with seven.

In the fifth inning, Dell picked up her fifth RBI of the game when she was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded.

Slocum allowed three runs on seven hits, while striking out three. Sophomore Beth Haley picked up the win in relief, pitching four and a third innings. Haley allowed just three hits and one run to improve to 11-4 on the year.

On Friday, the Mavs swept host Southwest Baptist (21-35, 3-15 MIAA) in Bolivar, Mo. UNO pounded out 12 hits to take game one 12-0 and held on to win a defensive battle 2-1 in the second game.

In the first game, the Mavs struck first, taking a 1-0 lead in the second. Slocum doubled to lead off the inning and scored on sophomore Alli Hukill's single to right.

UNO added three more in the third. Yates walked to lead off the inning, and Feichtinger followed with a single. Senior Amanda Bader continued the attack by doubling to score Yates. Slocum then hit a sacrifice fly, scoring Feichtinger and Bader, who advanced on a throwing error to put UNO up 4-0.

The Mavs added two more runs in the sixth to take a 6-0 lead before doubling their score in the seventh.

Junior Julia Krejci started the seventh-inning barrage with a pinch-hit home run. Junior Kristi Meneely continued the scoring with a two-run single, while Lynch drove in another run with a single. Yates capped the scoring with a two-run double, scoring Meneely and Lynch.

SEE **SOFTBALL**: PAGE 5

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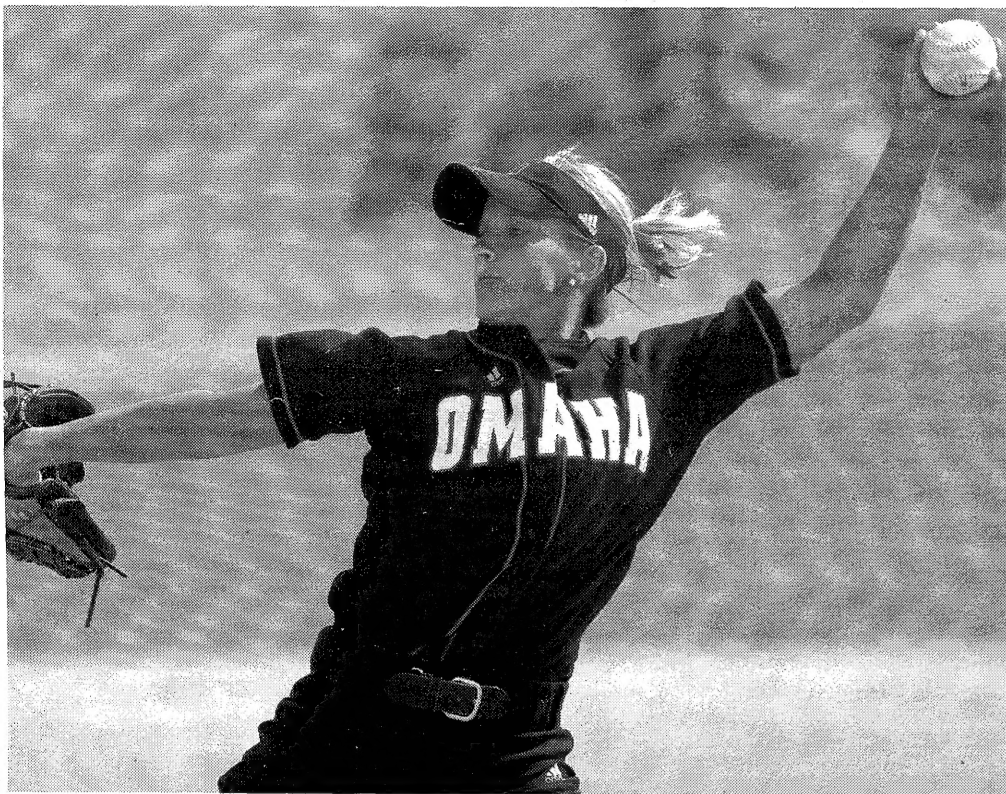


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Lindsey Slocum delivers a pitch during action earlier this season. Slocum picked up the win on Friday after holding Southwest Baptist to just two hits in UNO's 2-1 win. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

#### FROM **SOFTBALL**: PAGE 4

Negrete worked a complete game, holding the Bearcats to just two hits and striking out three.

Meneely and Yates each finished with two RBIs while junior Kristin Wellwood finished 2-for-3 and scored two runs.

The second game proved to be a pitcher's duel. Southwest sophomore pitcher Josie Rose held UNO to two runs on three hits, while striking out nine and walking five. But Slocum (13-2) out-duelled her counterpart by holding Southwest to one run on two hits, while striking out five and walking none.

A third-inning single by Slocum drove in UNO's first run. In the fourth, an RBI triple by Yates scored Wellwood to put UNO up 2-0.

The Bearcats got one back in the bottom of the seventh. Junior Katrina Munoz reached on an error, stole second and scored on a single by freshman BreAnn Proctor. Slocum halted the two-out rally by getting senior Taressa Gomez to pop out to short to end the game.

The Mavs (39-12, 13-5 MIAA) remained on the road to close out their MIAA regular season schedule with a pair of games Monday at Missouri Southern. Results were unavailable as of press time.

UNO, currently fourth in the MIAA league standings, clinched a berth in the MIAA softball championship held Thursday through Saturday at the Blue Valley Recreation Complex in Overland Park, Kan. As of press time, game time and

#### FROM **SENATE**: PAGE 1

The student rights resolution was written by Speaker Luke Hoffman and described as a "preemptive measure" to let students know that Student Government is there to support them.

Among the rights reaffirmed by the resolution are equal treatment in academic life, the right to safety, the right to peaceful demonstrations, the right to fair and just academic evaluation, the right to free speech, the right to appeal grades, the right to privacy, the right to editorial freedom and the right to assemble and organize clubs.

Two resolutions were passed to increase consistency between Student Government's constitution and bylaws. The biggest change to the bylaws limits the student body president to two terms.

"The whole document is just a reflection of what we do now," said Chief Administrative Officer Matt Nelson, who wrote the resolutions.

Another resolution sought to bring consistency with the bylaws and Student Government's election rules. The biggest change was a prohibition on mass e-mails to ask students to vote for a particular candidate.

Sen. Kyle Schulze wrote an Arbor Day tree planting resolution. It was added to the agenda the night before the meeting because Arbor Day was last Friday. The resolution passed and a spruce was planted near the Weber Fine Arts Building.

Several appointments were made during the meeting, with Vice President Kevin Huddleston naming Sen. Eric Hansen to the Committee on Athletics, Sen. Nathan Kirkland to the Parking Advisory Committee and reappointing Adam Gottsch to the Committee on Technology and Resources.

Nelson made four appointments to agency director positions, with Maida Avdic having already been named director

of the Network for disAbleD Students at the last meeting. Nelson named Jackie Chavez director of American Multicultural Students, Tim Winchell director of Gender and Sexual Orientation, Joy Lee director of International Student Services and Rachel Dick director of the Women's Resource Center.

Each appointee was subject to questions from student senators. The common question asked by senators was what the appointees planned to do as directors of their respected organizations.

Chavez said she planned to unite cultural organizations and promote awareness of AMS, while Winchell said he wanted to focus on service and leadership training. Dick said she wanted to increase awareness and hold a women's health fair in fall, and Lee was absent but "has a very patient look at leadership," Nelson said.

Letters of statement were also written to commend the directors who are stepping down. A letter also commended Wade Robinson, associate vice chancellor for Student Affairs, who is resigning to take a position at Wichita State University.

Three student organizations also received preliminary approval by the Student Senate: MAPS, the Minority Association of Pre-medical Students; a men's a capella group; and FOCUS, a chapter of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students.

Student Senate will have four summer session meetings: May 21, June 18, July 16 and Aug. 13. Meetings will begin at 7 p.m. with committees and will convene at 7:30 p.m. for the full senate. Executive Council appointments, rule changes and expenditures of more than \$1,000 are prohibited during the summer term.

The senate will resume its fall term with committee meetings at 7 p.m. on Aug. 27, with a full meeting at 7 p.m. on Sept. 3.

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## Artists end on high note with student thesis exhibit

**TOM MCCAULEY**  
CONTRIBUTOR

As the spring semester comes to a close, four UNO art students bid adieu to their undergraduate careers with a thesis exhibition, showcasing their final works.

The 2009 Bachelor of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibit at the UNO Art Gallery opened April 10 with the usual wine, cheese and crackers spread featuring the works of seniors Ashley Rodriguez-Reed, Angela Drakeford, Ryan Carroll and Ramanda Fuelberth.

"I'm sad to graduate," Drakeford said.

Students put long hours into the thesis exhibit, a process that began during the spring semester before their senior year

and culminates with the BFA show.

"People are always the most happy at student shows," Studio Art professor Russ Nordman said.

Nordman advised Carroll and Fuelberth through their thesis projects. He called the exhibit "a really supportive atmosphere" which celebrates the process of artistic expression.

Unlike past exhibits, however, this year's show was made entirely of installation art, or sculptured pieces that incorporate everyday materials with new media devices. For instance, Rodriguez-Reed hung patterned fabric sculptures from the ceiling, creating a layering effect whose context shifts depending on the viewer's place in the room.

Investigating "nature and its

structure," Rodriguez-Reed said she crafted these sculptures to create the "dichotomy [which] exists when images resemble a viewer's distant vantage point while simultaneously feeling microscopic."

Carroll created an interactive piece through which the manipulation of knobs on a modified keyboard console, allows the viewer to modify Carroll's images.

In his artist's statement, Carroll likened his style to painting and wrote, "The work has a meditative property that becomes apparent after a short time when the details and movement begin to appear."

Fuelberth used multi-channel videos, projection and televisions to create the aptly-titled "Fruitless Search for Random Redemption."

The piece bombards the viewer with a mishmash of news snippets, weapons, commercials, static and an audio track of the "Nicene Creed."

Drakeford, on the other hand, created a text-based installation.

"I am fascinated with the lingering ability of words to resonate with us long after they have left our mouths," Drakeford said. "I have begun to wonder about what happens to these words after they are spoken and fill the space between two people."

Using 3-by-5 notecards and her mother's old Remington typewriter, Drakeford typed various sentences 100 times each, then stacked the cards in piles around the typewriter on a simple wooden table.

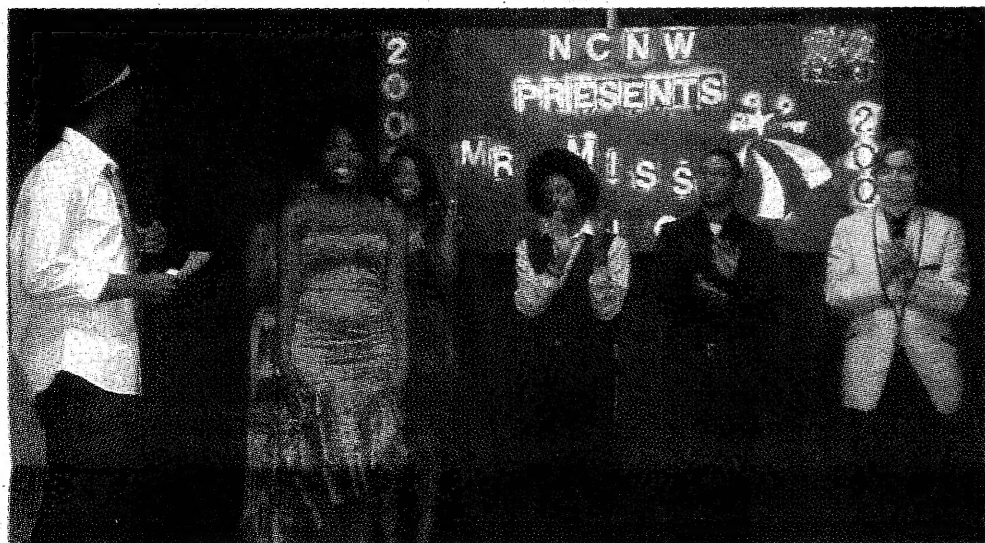
The sentences are direct and heartrending, like "I will stop looking for reasons to leave," and "I can stop wanting to die."

On the walls surrounding the piece, Drakeford used handmade paper and string to write very direct, very intimate sentences which the viewer can imagine being said between two lovers struggling to define their

"The work has a meditative property that becomes apparent after a short time when the details and movement begin to appear"

RYAN CARROLL

## Talent show crowns king, queen



Timothy Gaskin (left) introduces Nikki Ivey (second from left) for the evening wear portion at the Mr. and Miss UNO Talent show. Contestants competed in several categories including business wear, swimsuit, talent and a question portion. (COURTESY OF SHUKURA HUGGINS)

**DANIELLE SHERMAN**  
CONTRIBUTOR

It was that time of the year again for students to have the chance to show off their talents and compete for the Mr. and Miss UNO Talent show.

Several students walked away with new titles on Friday. Passion Johnson won Miss UNO while Jimmie Pinkham took Mr. UNO. Johnson sang while Pinkham played guitar for the show.

Brittany Thompson and Gateway writer Jared Spence were named runners-up. Nikki Ivey, Israel Pommels and Josh Buda also competed in the talent show while Goodrich Scholar Timothy Gaskin hosted the event.

"I was a little hesitant and nervous about competing at first, but once I got there on Friday all of my nerves turned to excitement," Spence said. "I am really glad that I made the decision to participate in the contest. It was really great to get up on stage in front of everyone and just have fun."

The contest was open to all UNO students.

Johnson and Pinkham, in addition to winning Mr. and Miss UNO, won a free limousine ride and dinner for two at Spaghetti Works in downtown Omaha.

Mona Lisa King-Ward, staff secretary II in the UNO Multicultural Affairs office, said this event was a chance for students to come together, socialize and network.

"The purpose of holding an event like this is to get students of different cultural backgrounds and other organizations to participate and showcase their talent, meet new and interesting people, provide kinship between students and make lasting friendships," King-Ward said.

Every year, the UNO National Council

for Negro Women, Inc. along with the Multicultural Affairs Office, hosts its annual Mr. and Miss UNO Talent show where students sign up and compete to see who best represent the university.

The talent show included prizes from event sponsors Shamrock Limo, Jimmy Johns, Olive Garden, Rave Theater at Westroads mall and Hy-Vee.

Proceeds from the event are going towards the National Council of Negro Women's 10-year anniversary celebration on Nov. 6.

"Our events also are fundraising events to provide funds for our 10 year Anniversary Heritage Ball and our community service projects," King-Ward said. "For example, Adopt a Family at Christmas provides snacks at tutoring for Elementary students, Lil Brothers Friends of the Elderly, Mother's Day baskets and other community events."

Entertainment Editor Andrea Barbe contributed to this report.



Sophomore Jimmie Pinkham played "Rusty Old Boat" by Paul Gilbert. Pinkham won Mr. UNO (COURTESY OF ERIN CRON.)



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## New playlist on the street, Gitmo Bay, sure to drive everyone crazy

I hope you've got space on your iPod, because there's a playlist out that people are going crazy for. It's the infamous list of songs by artists such as Drowning Pool, Barney and Eminem, intended to be heard unwillingly and at mind-bogglingly high decibel levels. That's right, now you too can have all the tunes used to torture Guantanamo Bay detainees available at the push of a button (shackles and cages not included).

The memos are just the latest in a long succession of evidence about what goes on behind the walls of prisons such as Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay. First there was the prison photos released depicting both sexual and physical abuse. Then water boarding became a house-hold phrase. Now, the Bush Administration's memos have been released and on the top of the list of acceptable means of interrogating? Music torture.

It's the CIA's style to use psychological torture rather than physical force to interrogate suspects. This method of "breaking down" prisoners takes the pro-Iraq defense of war as a necessary evil to protect one's country and confirms, in actuality, the unnecessary evils that can exist in war. There are many reasons why the CIA would rather use psychological torture rather than physical torture. But the effects of psychological torture can last a lifetime, and if you really want to get deep, can scar the psyche of an entire group of people. Cruel? Definitely. Unusual? Unfortunately, not.

I'm not certain what things are going on in the minds of the war's key players and perhaps history will be able to communicate accurately the level of brutality in this situation. But this isn't the first time music has been used to mess with "enemy" minds.

In an issue of the Journal of

Musicological Research, author Ekhard John investigates the role of music in Nazi Germany's concentration camps. John found that while prisoners used music positively as a coping mechanism, music was also used against them. SS soldiers at KZ Sonnenburg would command prisoner "orchestras" to play "gay little songs" during the arrival of new inmates. The lyrics were self-insulting, such as "We are the Cohns, the Isaaks and the Wolfsteins/known everywhere by our disgusting faces." As the new arrivals stepped off the boxcars they would wave to the orchestra — without regard to the lyrics — because they figured a place that had such joyous music couldn't be so bad.

Some of the songs used during the Iraq War, such as Drowning Pool's "Bodies" and death-metal band Deicide's "F--- Your God," are definitely not joyous, especially when blared for 14 hours straight to a naked prisoner in a freezing cell, shackled into a squatting position. Britney Spears' "Hit Me Baby One More Time" could drive someone insane just as quick as heavy metal can (imagine that) given the conditions and environment incorporated into the torture.

To my surprise, not all musicians are upset with the use of their music as means of cruelty. Drowning Pool's Stevie Benton told Newsweek he was "honored" to have his band's music used as an interrogation method, stating that perhaps their song could be used to "prevent another 9/11 attack or something like that."

I'm insulted that something like music, which German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer regarded as the highest form of art, is being used in such savage ways. To compose, sing or perform is an act of creation, work that artists have put their hearts and souls into. There are some things that are so sacred, so undoubtedly powerful that they exist beyond the human

### The Outside World



Jasmine Maharisi

## Federal shield law would help U.S. government catch up with Nebraska

While on some social issues like same-sex marriage, Nebraska might be seen as lagging behind some of the more traditionally progressive states, there are many issues where the Cornhusker State is ahead of the federal government.

Protecting a journalist's right to gather information, and with it protecting the public's access to information, is one such area where Nebraskans have adopted reasonable, enlightened public policy, whereas the federal government continues to drag its feet.

Nebraska has "one of the broader, more absolute reporter's privilege statutes in the nation," according to the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. Nebraska's "shield law," a term referring to statutes that protect a journalist's ability to shield the identity of confidential sources, has been on the books since 1973.

The argument for such a shield law was clearly articulated by the Nebraska Legislature in its findings related to the statute. Paraphrasing:

(1) Nebraska had a policy to insure the free flow of news and other information to the public, and that those involved in the exchange of news may only perform this role in a "free and unfettered atmosphere;"

(2) The government should not inhibit, directly or indirectly, the free flow of news and other information to the public, but rather encourage it to be exchanged "vigorously so that the public may be fully informed;"

(3) Disclosing confidential sources and unpublished information inhibits this process, and thus is contrary to the public interest;

(4) Therefore, there is a need to prevent this sort of government intrusion.

This same argument—that allowing a reporter's privilege supports the public's interest in having access to the free flow of information — applies not only in Nebraska, though, but in general.

The federal government has, for years, resisted passing a shield law to provide a common standard to protect journalists across the country and also to protect reporters who wind up facing subpoenas from federal courts.

Last year, the House of Representatives passed a bipartisan bill establishing a reporter's privilege. Unfortunately, however, the bill ultimately died in the Senate.

A new version of the bill, the Free Flow of Information Act of 2009,

has been introduced again in the House, which referred it to the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 1.

The Senate bill, S.488, is sponsored by Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., along with seven other co-sponsors: Sens. Kristin Gillibrand, D-N.Y.; Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.; Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn.; Richard Lugar, R-Ind.; Claire McCaskill, D-Mo.; Patty Murray, D-Wash.; and Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

With such a diverse, bipartisan list of sponsors — and vocal support from President Obama while on the campaign trail and Attorney General Eric Holder during his confirmation hearings — it is hopeful that we will soon see a federal shield law.

Such a law would help make sure important stories continue to break. Remember that for major stories, such as Watergate, the inner-workings of government sometimes have to make use of anonymous sources.

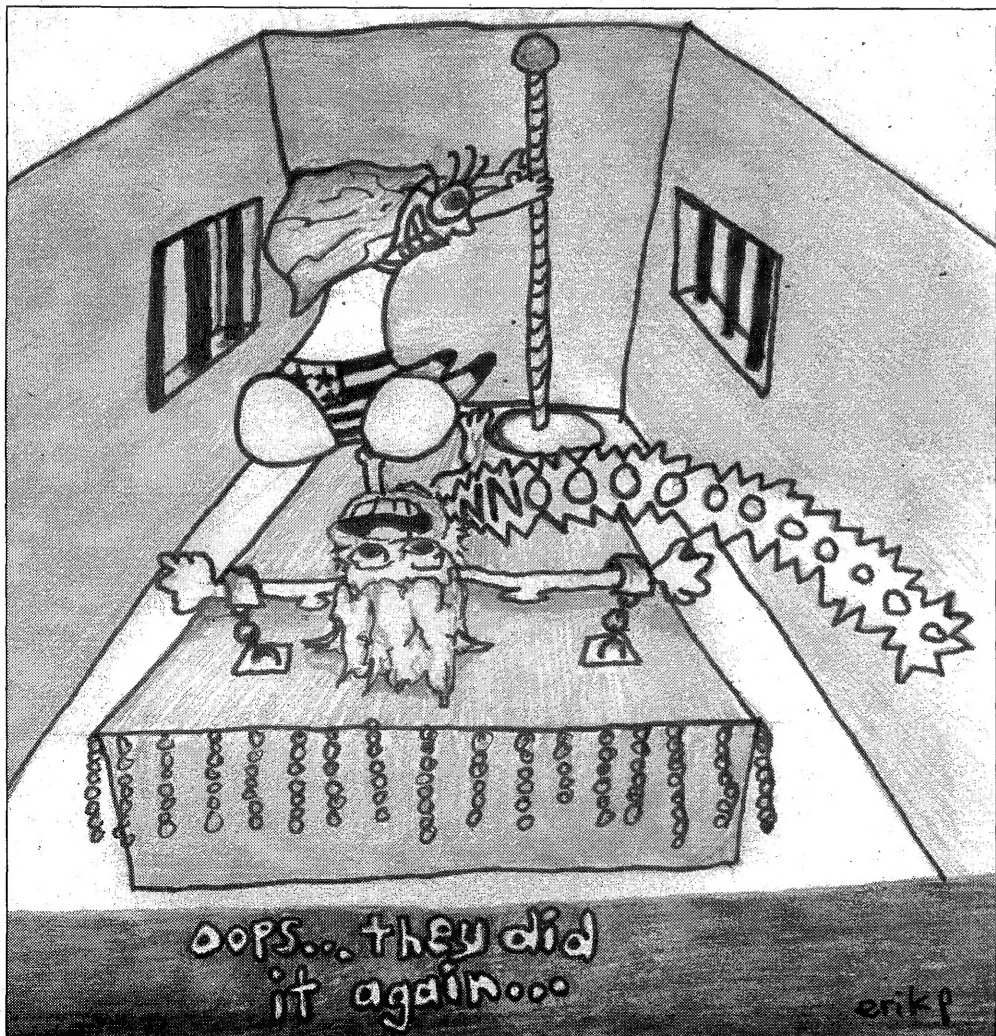
It is my hope that the Senate follows the lead of progress states to protect journalists by passing the Free Flow of Information Act which, incidentally, happens to be same the name as the Nebraska statue.

In particular, I hope to see Sens. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., and Mike Johanns, R-Neb., both have and seize the opportunity to vote for this bill to help spread Nebraska's democratic values to the federal level.

### Sinister Slant



Scott Stewart



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FROM **BUDGET:** PAGE 1

to evaluate their accomplishments in achieving the university's strategic goals.

"[Chancellor John Christensen] has repeated 'everything is on the table' until we know what the specifics are," Hynes said. "We will have to have some decisions made and put into place July 1."

UNO's strategic goals include focusing on students' potential, assisting students in succeeding and graduating, and being committed to academic excellence, as well as staying engaged with the community and region.

Pamela Smith, a professor in the Goodrich Program at UNO, said the need for cuts across the board will require each department to consider every cost-cutting measure available.

"If there's fat, it needs to be trimmed," Smith said. "The good thing about financial crunch is it requires you to scrutinize what you have. This is what keeps us on our toes, you can't be romantic about this sort of thing."

The departmental evaluations are due to Conley by May 1 and will then be taken into consideration when deciding where to save money.

"We have to look at it programmatically, asking yourself: 'Are we still effective?' The next step is to look and see. There could be an infinite number of possibilities," Hynes said. "We're going to be looking at each

administrative area, divisions, looking at what they do, evaluating on a scale – vital to necessary to more of a nice-to-have."

Despite having to idle in wait for budget decisions to be finalized, UNO has moved forward to save as much money possible this fiscal year, so that those savings can be carried over after July 1, the end of the fiscal year.

At this time, annual faculty reviews are proceeding normally, including tenure and promotions. However, no personnel layoffs have hit UNO's faculty and staff.

"I can confirm no separations of any kind [due to budgetary reasons] because we're not there yet," Conley said.

But those decisions will need to be made, including the possibility of cutting certain underperforming units or academic programs.

"If we eliminated an academic program, the chancellor has discussed that a broader conversation would need to occur," Hynes said.

However, all signs point to serious university-wide concessions and cuts in order to meet UNO's projected budget, a process of reducing spending that has been taking place over the past several years.

"This campus does not have the resources left to make deep cuts without cutting to the bone," Hynes said.

*News Editor Scott Stewart contributed reporting from Lincoln, Neb.*

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Art

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